

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 24, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Bishop Shaver – St. Andrews Anglican Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac read a letter of recognition submitted by Commander Kijurna to Chief Petruch. The “Citizens Recognition” letter honored Roger & Glenda Townsend for their assistance with a two year old child that nearly drowned in a lake at the Hickory Ridge Lake Apartments on May 10, 2016. Roger & Glenda both performed life-saving efforts until first responders arrived and took over. The Merrillville Police Department thanked Roger & Glenda Townsend for their efforts that helped save the life of a two year old child. President Hardaway suggested that we present the Townsend family with a plaque and honor them at our next Town Council meeting.

Mrs. Uzelac shared information from a letter by Lieutenant Horvath to Commander Kijurna in regards to a commendation request in which exemplary efforts were performed by Officer Corey Nash. Officer Nash was one of the first responders to arrive at the Hickory Ridge Lake Apartments in reference to a possible baby drowning in the lake. His quick response as well as his life-saving efforts played a significant role in saving the life of the child. Lieutenant Horvath praised the actions of Officer Nash and recommended that he be considered for a commendation as well as Officer of the Year 2016.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 24, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit mentioned a discussion took place at a prior Budget & Finance meeting related to a proposal of a new contract from the FOP. The current contract is due to expire at the end of the year. Mr. Pettit said further communication will take place related to this matter at a future Budget & Finance meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Spires discussed information related to estimates & funding for a road improvement paving project. Discussion followed related to the details and funds involved with this project. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and use the entire amount of funds allocated on the project. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway commended Public Works on an excellent job that the summer workers performed while taking care of overgrown grass at various locations within the community. Discussion followed regarding the process involved if the town has to cut grass when residents are in violation of the town ordinance.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron briefly mentioned that she is making a list related to the direction we would like to go with regarding health care insurance. Once complete it will be provided to the current provider for discussion.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich provided an update related to Forest Hill Park project and mentioned they will soon begin looking at designs for Southbrook Park. She spoke about the process of creating a website for the Parks Department and having it link to the Town of Merrillville website. Jan thanked Ruth Hashu-Rooda for her time and effort put forth toward the project as well as saving the Town of Merrillville money by doing most of the work for the project in-house. Ms. Orlich mentioned how we maximized revenue by lowering the cost to rent the Pruzin Center and mentioned there are only a few dates available to book in June & July. Ms. Orlich said that approximately 1,500 Fourth of July Parade applications are currently being mailed to all the local businesses within Merrillville. A discussion took place related to the bike trail tunnel located under I-65 which included implementing additional safety precautions.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron mentioned that she went to a Stormwater Conference and was informed of some different recyclable materials that can be used. She referred to Mr. Lake for further report on this topic. Mr. Lake described various recycled products, provided updates of different drainage projects and Stormwater news. Mr. Lake said a 2-day Rain-guard workshop is currently being set up with Purdue Extension. He anticipates the workshop to take place on August 30 & 31st at Stormwater Resource Center.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron stated the Cap Program is still going on and encouraged everyone to continue to save plastic caps. A discussion took place related to temporary closing part of the bike trail due to a scheduled NIPSCO project to take place.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway spoke about a Resolution to be discussed later at this Town Council meeting authorizing a request for transfer of empty lots located approximately at 56th Ave Broadway that are currently up for tax sale.

President Hardaway provided the detailed information regarding the multiple quotes for the demolition of property located at 122 W. 55th Avenue. Mr. Spann made a motion to accept the bid of \$12,800 from Boyd Construction taking it under advisement of the attorney. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Discussion followed related to the details of quote. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit read an Order from the Hearing Officer regarding the location at 7150 Broadway. Discussion followed among the Council regarding this matter. Mr. Pettit made a motion that the Town of Merrillville obtain three quotes and have them available to execute if needed for the demolition of the building location at 7150 Broadway. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-14: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville amending the municipal code to enact a municipal street and road repair tax. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance including the detailed breakdown of rates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Mr. Spires made a presentation on the proposed Wheel/Excise Tax. Discussion followed among the Council regarding the proposal. The motion carried by a 4-2 roll call vote (2 abstentions).

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-14: Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Town Council authorizing a request for transfer from the Lake County Board of Commissioners of real property located at 5612 Broadway, 5618 Broadway, and 5624 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 16-15: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies of the 2016 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 16-16: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing the extension of current temporary loans to December 31, 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner:	Trinity Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church
Owner:	Trinity Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church
Request:	Variance of use approval to allow two (2) message center sign additions to a legal non-conforming existing brick church sign, to increase the size of the electronic message center sign from 20 square feet to 32 square feet for both panels and to allow the “V” of the proposed electronic message center sign to be increased from 10’ to 11’ apart at the furthest point.
Purpose:	For advertising church times and functions
Location:	7950 Marshall Street
Zoning:	R-2, Single Family Residential
Case #:	Z8uV1-0416
Conditions:	For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve with the listed condition and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1563
Owner: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1563
Request: Variance of use approval for a proposed electronic message center sign and to increase the size of the proposed message center sign from 12.8 square feet to 20.6 square feet.
Purpose: For new identification and advertising sign for the VFW.
Location: 6880 Hendricks
Zoning: R-1, Single Family Residential
Case #: Z16uV2-0416
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Barron presented an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit from Hunter’s Glen North (Phase 1) in lieu of a performance bond. Mrs. Barron made a motion to accept the Letter of Credit, and authorize President Hardaway & Mr. Guernsey to execute it. The original copy of the Letter of Credit is to be maintained at the Clerk Treasurer’s office. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Barron also provided information for a Subdivision Development Agreement for Hunter’s Glen. Discussion among Council followed. The motion includes acceptance of the Hunter’s Glen North (Phase 1) Subdivision Development Agreement, and to authorize President Hardaway & Mr. Guernsey to execute it subject to the developer signing & executing the agreement. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, May 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services) May 30, 2016 in observance of Memorial Day.
Police Commission meeting, June 3, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.
Stormwater Management Board meeting, June 7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
Plan Commission workshop meeting, June 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Council meeting, June 14, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Barron and seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer